

Message Text

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21/61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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P R 151740Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 7846 VICE 7896)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR BASQUE STV CONGRESS OCTOBER 30-31,
1976

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 9476, (B) MADRID 7119

SUMMARY. THE STV HAS GOTTEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED
WITH ITS OCTOBER 30-31 CONGRESS. IT EXPECTS SOME 1700
DELEGATES AND HAS INVITED NUMEROUS FOREIGN LABOR ORGANIZA-
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TIONS, INCLUDING THE AFL-CIO. THE STV APPEARS DETERMINED

TO SOLIDIFY ITS BASE AFTER FORTY YEARS IN EXILE AND IN THE
FACE OF THE DISSIDENT YOUNG TURK FACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. STV (SOLIDARITY OF BASQUE WORKERS) VICE PRESIDENT
JOSE LEUNDA, STV SECRETARY GENERAL ALFONSO ECHEVERRIA,
AND LABATT DISCUSSED THE COMING STV CONGRESS DURING THE
COURSE OF AN OCT. 14 MEETING IN MADRID, SET UP AS RESULT
OF SEVERAL TELCONS WITH STV EXILE HEADQUARTERS IN BAYONNE,
FRANCE. THE STV LEADERS HAD JUST COME FROM A CONFERENCE
WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA WHO HAD GIVEN THEM A
DEFINITE GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED WITH THE STV CONGRESS
PREPARATIONS. HE LEFT IT UP TO THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF
GUIPUZCOA, HOWEVER, TO RULE ON WHETHER THE STV COULD HOLD
THEIR CONGRESS IN EIBAR (GUIPUZCOA), SITE OF THE FIRST STV
CONGRESS IN 1929. ALTHOUGH LEUNDA WAS CONFIDENT THAT STV
STRENGTH IN EIBAR WAS SUCH AS TO ENABLE THEM TO "CONTROL"
THE CONGRESS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SECURITY AND THE THREAT
OF AGITATORS, THE CIVIL GOVERNOR CLAIMED HE WAS FEARFUL THAT
"VENGEFUL SOCIALIST ELEMENTS" WOULD TRY TO MAKE TROUBLE. IT
WAS IN EIBAR, EARLIER THIS YEAR, THAT PSOE LEADER FELIPE
GONZALEZ GOT THE COLD SHOULDER, MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF LOCAL
SOCIALISTS. LEUNDA DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF TROUBLE FROM
THE SOCIALISTS, POINTING OUT THAT THE STV WAS ON VERY
FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE SOCIALIST UGT (WHICH HAD BEEN INVITED
TO ATTEND). IN ANY EVENT, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOVERNOR-
WHO WAS ALSO HAVING TO COPE WITH THE HIGHLY TENSE SITUATION
IN GUIPUZCOA (MADRID 7809) FOLLOWING THE ETA ASSASSINATIONS,
WOULD MAKE THEM CHANGE THE CONGRESS LOCATION.

2. LEUNDA SAID THAT THEY ANTICIPATED SOME 1700 DELEGATES
TO ATTEND THE OCTOBER 30 31 CONGRESS. THE STV ALSO
EXPECTED THE FOREIGN LABOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WCL (REF
A), ICFTU, TEN INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS (INCLUDING
THE IMF), AND TWENTY EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS (INCLUDING FRENCH,
WEST GERMAN, BRITISH, SCANDINAVIAN, AND ISRAELI). WHEN
ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE AFL-CIO REPRESENTATION, LEUNDA EXPRESSED
THE HOPE THAT MIKE BOGGS AND TWO AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENTS
MIGHT COME, PLUS PERHAPS IRVING BROWN FROM PARIS. THE STV
WAS ALSO CONSIDERING INVITING THE FIVE LABATTS BASED IN
MADRID (BRITISH, FRENCH, FILIPINO, WEST GERMAN AND OURSELVES).
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3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT TENSENESS IN THE BASQUE
REGION, IF PROLONGED UNTIL MONTH'S END, COULD PUT A DAMPER
ON THE CONGRESS, THE STV APPEARS DETERMINED TO SOLIDIFY ITS
BASE AFTER FORTY YEARS IN EXILE AND IN THE FACE OF THE
DISSIDENT YOUNG TURK FACTION (REF B). IF EVEN HALF OF THE
EXPECTED FOREIGN GUESTS SHOW, IT WOULD MAKE QUITE A SPLASH.
ANY INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. ATTENDANCE WOULD BE

APPRECIATED.

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